resolution as to the selection of members for the Conferences, the functions of such Conferences and the constitution of a fund for each Conference. The resolution passed at the latter place was, that there was scope for improving the Conferences as at present held, that the scheme proposed by Mr. Krishnamurthi appeared to be impracticable and that the following improvements should be considered :—

(1) Careful preparation of lists of major and minor wants.

(2) Review of progress achieved in this respect at the Taluk and District Board Meeting.

(3) Appointment of Sub-Committees to deal with different subjects and the fixing of their responsibilities.

(4) Ear-marking of a certain sum for each taluk for economic work.

(5) Members who should take part in the Conferences.

(6) Holding of Conferences every year.

The question of defining clearly the object and scope of these Conferences so as to make them serve a more useful purpose than at present, is engaging the attention of Government.

T. E. JEYARAMA AIYAR,
*Secretary to Government,*
*Revenue Department.*

## FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

### Amendment of the grant of Legal or Heir certificates.

READ—

Government Order No. Fl. 4090—G. F. 6-21-329, dated the 17th February 1922, sanctioning the Comptroller's proposal for dispensing with the production of legal documents, such as, Succession Certificates, Letters of Administration, Guardianship Certificates, etc., in the case of small investors in State Loans and authorising him to transfer bonds belonging to deceased holders to their heirs on the findings of Amildars and District Magistrates up to the limits of Rs. 1,500 and 5,000, respectively, pending the revision of the Securities Regulation.

ORDER No. FL. 4177-85—G. F. 5-22-41, DATED 8TH MARCH, 1923.

The Government are pleased to lay down the following rules for further regulating the procedure to be adopted by Magistrates in granting certificates in the cases referred to in the order read above.

*Rules.*

1. The Magistrate holding the enquiry will immediately on receiving the reference cause notice or proclamation thereof containing the date and place of enquiry, particulars of the bond, deceased person, claimants, etc., to be served by beat of drum in the village or locality of the town where the deceased subscriber usually resided or worked for gain. In important cases where the amount is large enough to justify such a procedure and at the discretion of the Magistrate the notice may also be published in the local Gazette.

2. A copy of the notice or proclamation shall also be fixed to the Notice Board at the Court House and at the Village Chavadi or other public place in the village or locality of the town.

3. Where the probable claimants or heirs are known or suspected or are named by the applicant, the notice above referred to should be sent for service individually upon them.

4. The parties will be required to have their entire evidence, oral and documentary, ready at the time and place of enquiry.

5. The Magistrate will investigate the claims summarily, recording a memorandum of the evidence given by each witness, the other parties being at liberty to briefly cross-examine the deponents.

6. The Magistrate will then record his finding giving brief reasons therefor, and basing his decision on Hindu or Mahomedan Law whichever is applicable to the case and on equity and good conscience. A certificate based on such finding shall be granted to the rightful claimant or claimants.

7. The certificate granted by a Magistrate other than the District Magistrate shall be countersigned by the District Magistrate, who may for the purpose of satisfying himself send for and peruse the records of the case. If the District Magistrate considers that the certificate has been improperly granted, he may after hearing further evidence, if necessary, grant a fresh certificate after recording his reasons briefly in the matter and forward it to the Comptroller.

8. Ordinarily only the copy of the order of the Magistrate containing the finding and the certificate are to be sent to the Comptroller. But the latter shall have power to call for the entire records for perusal when he considers it necessary.

9. The record connected with the enquiry shall be retained in the office of the enquiring Magistrate for a period of three years from the date on which the enquiry was completed and then destroyed.

Copies of the proceedings may be granted to parties under the Copyist Rules.

M. N. KRISHNA RAO,
*Financial Secretary to Government.*